

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR STEINMETZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: MEAT INSPECTION: CHANGE OF GERMAN REGULATIONS

REF: TOFAS 352

1. MEETING WITH DR. RASCHKE AND DR. BOEHM ON DEC. 18
FOCUSED ON THREE PROVISIONS, THE FIRST TWO OF WHICH ARE
CONSIDERED BY MINHEALTH TO BE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS TO
CERTIFICATION. THESE INCLUDE: (A) SLAUGHTER OF SUSPECT
AND DISEASED ANIMALS, (B) MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF PERSON-
NEL, (C) PRODUCTION LINE SPEED AND MEAT INSPECTION.

2. NEW MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IN CHAPTER I, PART 2, POINT
6, PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATIVE TO SEPARATE ROOM FOR SUSPECT
SLAUGHTER. SUCH FACILITY IS NOT REQUIRED IF IT IS
GUARANTEED THAT SUSPECT AND DISEASED ANIMALS WILL NOT
ENTER THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE. SLAUGHTER AFTER THE END OF
THE REGULAR KILL IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. ACCORDING TO MIN-
HEALTH, NO GERMAN VETERINARIAN HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO
PROVIDE A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION.

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING EXAMINATION OF PERSONNEL HAVE
NOT BEEN CHANGED. PERSONS COMING IN CONTACT WITH MEAT
MUST HAVE ON FILE IN THE PLANT A DOCUMENT ISSUED BY A
MEDICAL DOCTOR THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO EMPLOYMENT
IN A MEAT PLANT. OFF THE RECORD, IT WAS EMPHASIZED BY
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DR. RASCHKE THAT GERMAN FOREIGN PROGRAMS OFFICERS WILL

NOT INTERFERE WITH THE METHOD OF EXAMINATION. THEY WILL JUST CHECK WHETHER THE MEDICAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE. THE CERTIFICATES MAY BE ISSUED ON LETTER-HEAD STATIONERY.

4. DR. RASCHKE STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH RICHARD LYNG AND RUSS IVES THE PROBLEM OF THE SPEED OF LINE IN PORK PLANTS. HE FELT DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED FURTHER AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT PROBLEMS MIGHT NOT ARISE. DR. BOEHM REMARKED THAT SOMEBODY MUST HAVE INVENTED A PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, HE LISTED U.S. PLANTS WHERE HE HAD FOUND NO PROBLEMS: HORMEL, FREMONT, NEBRASKA; WILSON, OKLAHOMA CITY; OMAHA PORK PACKING, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

5. WITH RESPECT TO POINTS 2 AND 3 ABOVE, DR. RASCHKE REMARKED THAT HE CANNOT IMAGINE ANY DIFFERENT "EQUIVALENT SOLUTION" AND THAT THE MINISTRY HAS NO LATITUDE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS REQUIRE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE POINTS AS A PREREQUISITE TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.

6. WE SHALL PROVIDE A TRANSLATION OF THE NEW REGULATION.

7. COMMENT: THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN MINHEALTH POSITION ON THE CRITICAL POINTS DISCUSSED ABOVE. WE FEEL THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IN U.S. CERTIFICATION WILL REQUIRE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TWO MAJOR PROVISIONS INCLUDING HEALTH INSPECTION AND SUSPECT SLAUGHTER. MINHEALTH FLATLY STATED THAT THE NEW ZEALAND PROGRAM TO SLAUGHTER SUSPECTS AT THE END OF THE DAY'S KILL WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. MINHEALTH OFFICIALS DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ENTRY OF U.S. PORK LIVERS, ACCORDING TO THEM THEY ARE STUDYING THE SITUATION.

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